

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 856

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor Bob Dudley Smith of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to specially recognize those extraordinary athletes and coaches who, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor and distinction to this State; and

WHEREAS, a Nashville native born on August 29, 1930, Bob Dudley Smith attended Eakin Grammar School, Cavert Junior High School, West End High School, and Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, a stellar, multi-sport athlete, Mr. Smith was a three-year letterman in basketball and baseball at West End High School and led the basketball team to two State Championships in 1946 and 1948, finishing runner-up in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dudley Smith received numerous accolades and honors during his amazing high school basketball career, including being selected as Nashville's and Tennessee's Most Outstanding Basketball Player in 1947-48, chosen for the All-City 1st team in 1948, and named to the Nashville Men's All-Time Basketball Squad for the years 1943-53; and

WHEREAS, although he was offered a baseball bonus contract to play for the Boston Red Sox organization, Mr. Smith chose instead to attend Vanderbilt University on a basketball scholarship; and

WHEREAS, continuing his illustrious playing career for the Commodores, Bob Dudley Smith quickly became a Vandy legend on the hardwood as he lead the team to its only Southeastern Conference Tournament title in 1950-51, beating the University of Kentucky, which was ranked as the top team in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is considered by many to be one of the best free throw shooters and field goal shooters in Vanderbilt history. After viewing a television story about an individual

male in the Ripley's Hall of Fame for shooting 1,000 consecutive free throws, it inspired him to emulate his technique and he has the record at Vanderbilt of making ninety-six consecutive free throws after practice. He also had the record of making twenty-three free throws in scheduled regular games in 1950, and that was a Southeastern Conference record for a number of years. Mr. Smith was named among the top 100 athletes to ever play sports at Vanderbilt and among the top thirty basketball players all-time to ever wear the black and gold; and

WHEREAS, once again a two-sport star, he lettered three years each in both basketball and baseball at Vanderbilt during a time when freshmen were not allowed to participate in varsity sports; his prowess on the diamond led to his working out with the Detroit Tigers in the summer of 1950 and a contract offer, but he once again decided to continue his education at Vanderbilt; and

WHEREAS, graduating from Vanderbilt University in June 1952, Bob Dudley Smith was called to duty by the United States Naval Reserve and proudly served his country during the Korean War until March 1954 when he received his honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, after leaving military service, Mr. Smith pursued a baseball career and signed a bonus contract with the New York Giants. Playing three years with the Giants organization, he returned to Nashville with his wife and first child in 1956 to begin his business career, joining Block Brothers that October as a Supervisor and Buyer; and

WHEREAS, a brilliant businessman, Bob Dudley Smith was named Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Association of Real Estate Boards in 1961 and was honored as the Nation's Outstanding Trade Executive of 1961-62; and

WHEREAS, he joined the Tennessee League of Savings Institutions Association as Executive Vice President in 1962 and would serve in that capacity until 1985, when he was named President – a post he would hold until his retirement in June 1993 after thirty-one years with the organization; and

WHEREAS, during his years with the Tennessee League of Savings Institutions, Mr. Smith worked closely with the various Governors, State Legislators, U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives from across Tennessee concerning the important legislative issues affecting

the Savings and Loan industry; he only had one bill not approved by the General Assembly during his thirty-plus year career; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dudley Smith was appointed Honorary Consul of Mexico for the State of Tennessee by the President of Mexico on March 10, 1972 and served in this capacity until October 16, 1996, assisting the State in improving business and cultural relationships with the country of Mexico. He was selected by the Nation's Honorary Consuls the "Consul of the Year" for 1974 in consideration of distinguished service rendered in the field of consular affairs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith hosted and coordinated with Governor Lamar Alexander, the concert of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Mexico City on May 8, 1981. The President's wife, Senora Carmen Lopez Prortillo, and two daughters also visited Nashville in May 12-17, 1981, with the Mexican Symphony Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, continuing his athletic pursuits later in life, Bob Dudley Smith has extensive acclaim on the tennis court and is very active in amateur tennis worldwide as a member of the Nashville Tennis Association, the Tennessee Tennis Association, the United States Tennis Association, the International Tennis Federation of London, and the International Tennis Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, since the early 1980s he has been a highly ranked player in men's doubles tennis for his age group, winning numerous titles – including twelve International Men's Doubles Championships in Europe and fifteen runner-up finishes in International Men's Senior Doubles Championships since 1997; and

WHEREAS, a vital part of his community, Mr. Smith has been very active over the years in many charitable, civic, and church organizations, such as the Nashville Symphony, the Nashville Ballet Society, Downtown Kiwanis Club, the Loyal Order of the Moose, Nashville Sports Council, Friends of Centennial Park and the Parthenon, Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Art Museum, Richland Country Club, and Belle Meade Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has lent his time and talents over the years to such wonderful organizations as the Boy Scouts of America, the Middle Tennessee Multiple Sclerosis Society, and Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Bob Dudley Smith served as president of the Tennessee Society of Association Executives and was the group's first recipient of the Outstanding Executive Award in 1985; he received the very prestigious Certified Association Executive designation at the American Society of Association Executives in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dudley Smith was honored with induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame on February 11, 2011, a fitting recognition of his extraordinary athletic career; and

WHEREAS, 2011 was a big year in receiving awards for Mr. Smith as he was also inducted into the Nashville Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame on April 12, 2011, which is an honor reserved for only those truly remarkable men and women graduates of public schools in Nashville who went on to achieve greatness in professional athletics, business, and service to country; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Richland Country Club also honored Mr. Smith, a club member since April 1977, during their commemorative golf tournament held annually since 1972 in recognition of his participation in golf and tennis at the club, his many club championships, his world class Senior Tennis victories, and other distinguished achievements in athletic competition; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Bob Dudley Smith is most appreciative of the love and support of his wife, Jeanne Haun Evans Smith, and is the proud father of four children, Bob Dudley Smith, Jr., Bradford Evans Smith, Randall Boyd Smith, and the late Darrell Hamilton Smith; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dudley Smith serves as an example of vitality and dedication to the people of Tennessee, and he should be duly recognized for the boundless energy and remarkable talent he brings to all his chosen endeavors, athletic and otherwise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, colleagues, and former teammates of Bob Dudley Smith as we hereby commend and honor him for his substantial legacy as an athlete

and businessman, and offer our deep appreciation for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.